



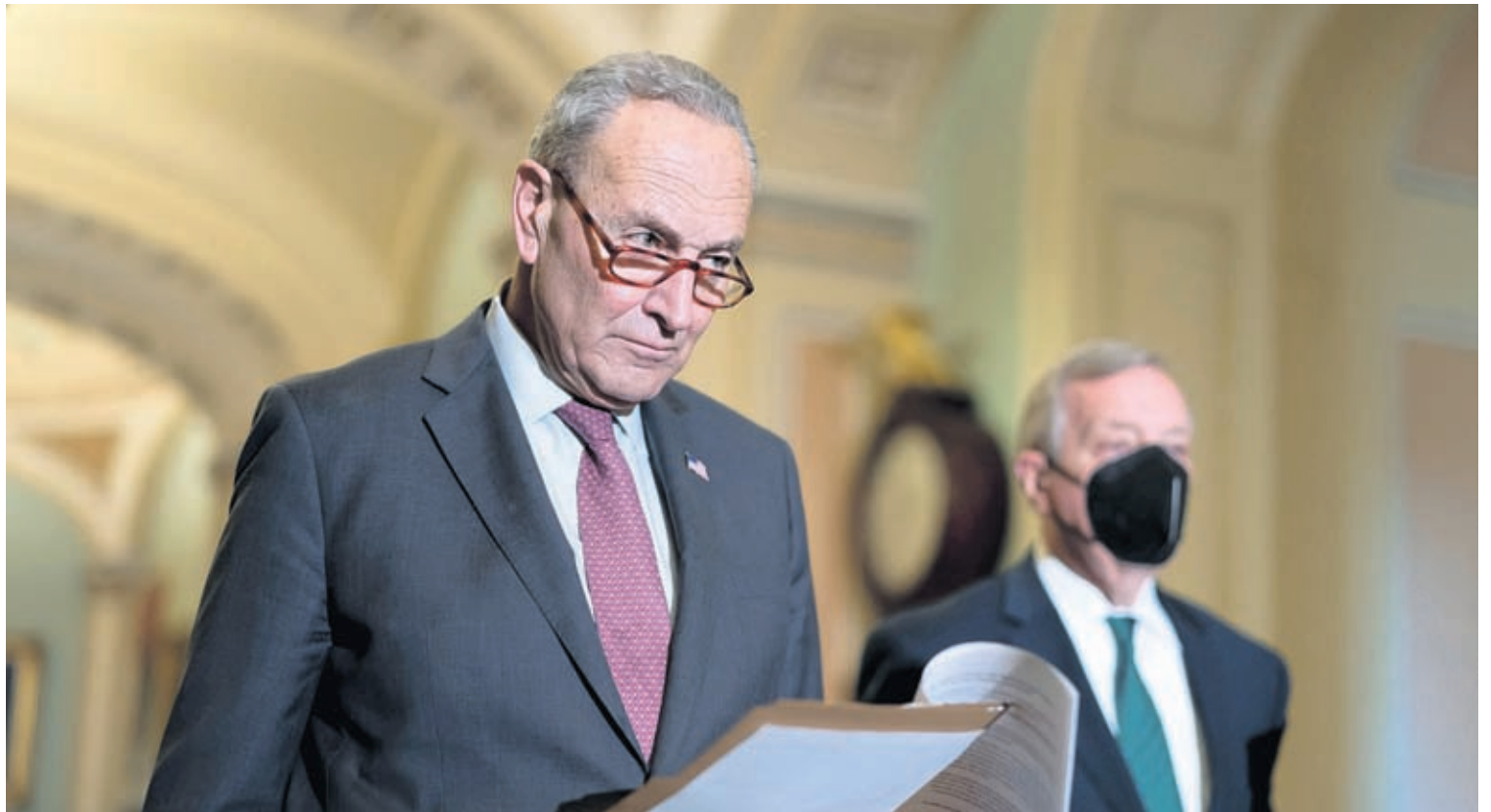
Dems see high court pick as chance to revive 2022 prospects

By STEVE PEOPLES

AP National Politics Writer

Democrats stung by a series of election year failures to deliver legislative wins for their most loyal voters hope they will be buoyed by the prospect of President Joe Biden naming the first Black woman to serve on the Supreme Court.

Justice Stephen Breyer's pending retirement, confirmed by numerous sources Wednesday, could not have come at a better time for a Democratic Party reeling from the collapse of Biden's legislative agenda, including a push to overhaul election laws that voting rights advocates said was critical to protecting democracy.



Continued on Page 2

The U.S Supreme Court building is seen at dusk in Washington on Oct. 22, 2021.

Associated Press

**OUR *Guests* CLAIM
WE SERVE *Authentic*
PERUVIAN CUISINE.**

J.E. Irausquin Blvd 64 Eagle Beach, Aruba Info: + 297 5925699
reservations@asiesmiperuenaruba.com • Closed on Mondays

Asies mi
Peru
Authentic Peruvian Food & More

COVID TESTING MADE EASY! At the Paseo Herencia Mall

LOCATION
Paseo Herencia Mall next to TGIF

ANTIGEN
Approved for re-entry to the U.S.

ANTIGEN \$35
Same day results

PCR \$75
Next day results

VERY gentle swabbers

JUST WALK IN!
No appointment needed.

OPEN DAILY FROM 9AM - 9PM

Covid Test Center Aruba

Your health is our concern

Paseo Herencia

Craving a Good Steak?

El Gaucho
ARGENTINE GRILL

One pound of Natural grass-Fed Beef from the Argentinean Pampas, Grilled to perfection by our Master Chefs over a real Charcoal Fire... Juicy, Lean and full of Flavor.

IT's Time for an extraordinary steak!

Closed on Sundays

Open Monday through Saturday from 11:30am till 11pm. For reservations call 582-3677
Lunch and Early Bird specials available till 5pm. Happy Hour from 5-7pm

Dems see high court pick as chance to revive 2022 prospects

Continued from Front

Democrats are trying to regroup with an eye on maintaining a tenuous grip on Congress after November's midterm elections, and picking Breyer's replacement offers a chance to pause from those bruising battles. Democrats hope that with Biden fulfilling a campaign pledge to appoint the first Black woman as a justice, they can energize a dejected base, particularly Black voters whose support will be crucial in the fall campaign.

"This is a huge opportunity for us," said Aimee Allison, founder of She the People, a national organization that encourages women of color to vote. "It turns out that appointing a Black woman (to the Supreme Court) at this moment could help to make up for the policy and political losses that we've seen recently."

"It's a win," Allison said.

Among the names being circulated as potential nominees are California Supreme Court Justice Leondra Kruger, U.S. Circuit Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson, prominent civil rights lawyer Sherrilyn Ifill and U.S. District Judge J. Michelle Childs in South Carolina, whom Biden has nominated to be an appeals court judge. Childs is a favorite of Rep. James Clyburn, D-S.C., who made a crucial endorsement of Biden just before South Carolina's presidential primary in 2020. The exact timing of Breyer's retirement remains unclear, but Senate Democrats who control the confirmation process plan to begin the proceedings as soon as possible.

Despite that energetic push, there are risks for Biden and his party that could jeopardize any apparent political advantages born of an election-year Supreme Court vacancy. Replacing Breyer will not ultimately change the court's 6-3 conservative majority, which has stymied Biden on major priorities including his vaccine and testing mandate for large businesses. And if every Senate Re-



Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., joined at right by Majority Whip Dick Durbin, D-Ill., speaks to reporters after a Democratic policy meeting at the Capitol in Washington, Dec. 14, 2021.
Associated Press

publican unites to oppose the nominee, the president would need to secure support from every Democrat in the chamber. That could potentially revive recent fights in which moderate Democratic Sens. Joe Manchin of West Virginia and Kyrsten Sinema bucked the party and defeated its priorities.

Manchin made clear he would scrutinize the pick. "I take my Constitutional responsibility to advise and consent on a nominee to the Supreme Court very seriously," he said in a statement. "I look forward to meeting with and evaluating the qualifications of President Biden's nominee to fill this Supreme Court vacancy."

Republicans were quick to signal that they would cast the nominee as too far to the left no matter the nominee.

"The Democrats know they will lose the Senate major-

ity in 2022," said Florida Sen. Rick Scott, who leads the Senate GOP's campaign arm. "I predict that (Senate Democratic leader) Chuck Schumer and whoever is running the White House will force all Democrats to obey and walk the plank in support of a radical liberal with extremist views."

For years, the potential of shifting the court has animated Republican voters, many of whom are motivated by the goal of eroding abortion rights. But as the court has swung to the right, it has become a priority for Democratic voters, too.

In the 2020 presidential campaign, supporters of Biden and then-President Donald Trump were about as likely to say Supreme Court nominations were "the single most important factor" in their vote, with roughly 2 in 10 saying so, according to AP VoteCast. But Biden's voters out-

paced Trump's in saying it was an important factor, even if not the top, 62% vs. 50%.

Heading into the 2022 election, the court was most expected to play a role in the fight for the Senate majority, where Democrats have the slimmest possible edge now. Vulnerable Democratic incumbents from New Hampshire to Nevada seized on the upcoming confirmation debate, highlighting abortion rights in particular.

In December, the court's conservative majority signaled openness to dramatic restrictions on abortion and may even overturn the landmark *Roe v. Wade* precedent. A decision is expected by the summer.

"The next justice must understand how their decisions impact the Nevadans I fight for every day, and that is especially true when it comes to women's reproductive rights," said Sen.

Catherine Cortez Masto, D-Nev., who faces a challenging reelection test in a state where voters largely support abortion rights.

It's much the same dynamic in New Hampshire for Democratic Sen. Maggie Hassan.

"Justice Breyer has built an impressive legacy on the Supreme Court, including key votes to uphold a woman's right to choose her own destiny and ensure that the Affordable Care Act remains the law of the land," Hassan said. "When the time comes, I will review President Biden's next Supreme Court nominee as part of the Senate's confirmation process."

And while the politics may initially benefit Democrats, Republicans wasted no time in seizing on the looming Supreme Court vacancy to raise campaign cash. Soon after news of Breyer's pending retirement was released, the Republican National Committee blasted out a fundraising email announcing the creation of an "Official Defend the Court Fund."

"Make NO mistake — Biden will pick a nominee that is pro-abortion, anti-gun and anti-religious liberty," the GOP warned.

Still, there was a palpable sense of relief and optimism among Democrats, including those who have grown frustrated with the slow pace of change under Biden.

"It's not a silver bullet, but my God, this is a big deal, man," said Young Democrats of America President Quentin Wathum-Ocama, who has been critical of the Biden presidency. "This is huge for so many reasons. It's going to get people excited."

Democrats need all the help they can get.

JB Poersch, who leads a super PAC aligned with Senate Democrats, said the nomination fight may help motivate Democratic voters — especially if Republicans try to interfere with the nomination process — but there are no guarantees.

"We have no room for error," he said. □

Watchdog says key federal health agency is failing on crises

By R. ALONSO-ZALDIVAR

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government's main health agency is failing to meet its responsibilities for leading the national response to public health emergencies including the coronavirus pandemic, extreme weather disasters and even potential bioterrorist attacks, a federal watchdog said Thursday.

The nonpartisan Government Accountability Office said it is designating the Health and Human Services Department's leadership and coordination of public health emergencies as a "high risk" area for the government. While that designation carries no immediate penalties, it signals to Congress that lawmakers need to pay special attention to the agency's operations.

Long-standing "persistent deficiencies" at HHS "have hindered the nation's response to the current COVID-19 pandemic and a variety of past threats," the GAO said in its report. "If left unaddressed, these deficiencies will continue to hamper the nation's ability to be prepared for, and effectively respond to, future threats."

The shortfalls include managing the medical supply chain, coordinating with



The Department of Health and Human Services building is seen in Washington, April 5, 2009.

Associated Press

federal and state agencies and providing clear and consistent communication to the public and the health care community, the GAO said.

The report is part of the GAO's evaluation of the government's pandemic response. It was released as senators of both parties came out with draft legislation this week calling for a close study of the pandemic and an overhaul of HHS' capabilities.

Among the lawmakers' priorities are closer congressional oversight of the Centers for Disease Con-

trol and Prevention, an HHS agency, building out the supply chain and improving coordination from the top rungs of HHS. Some of those address issues raised by the GAO report.

The report did not assign blame to individual officials, in the current or past administrations.

Department spokesperson Sarah Lovenheim said in a statement that "we're in a much stronger position than we were a year ago." She added that "we look forward to reading GAO's feedback on these important issues and shar-

ing progress in this whole-of-government effort as we continue to work to ensure the American people are protected from future health-related emergencies."

The GAO said that of 115 recommendations it has made to HHS over the past 15 years on public health emergencies, 72 have not been fully put in place.

Last year, the White House issued a plan for updating the pandemic response, but it was not couched in terms of fixing serious shortcomings. Instead, it called for improving public health

capabilities to put them on par with the nation's military defense response.

Under both the Biden and the Trump administrations, HHS has taken a back seat to the White House in management of the coronavirus pandemic even though its scientists, doctors, disease detectives and service providers carry out most of the day-to-day work. The GAO said it found "persistent deficiencies" in five main areas. They include establishing clear roles and responsibilities for federal, state and local agencies, collecting and analyzing data to inform decision-makers and providing clear and consistent communication to the public. For example, the GAO said that the department has yet to address recommendations from 2020 for resolving supply chain issues, including the availability of diagnostic tests. Increasing production of at-home COVID-19 tests has become a top priority for the White House in recent weeks.

The GAO concluded that data collection and analysis has been a critical weakness for the government since the start of the pandemic. As a result, decision-makers have had only a partial or late-evolving view of some developments. □

Austin orders more focus on limiting civilian casualties

By ROBERT BURNS

AP National Security Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin on Thursday ordered his staff to quickly develop an "action plan" for improving how the Pentagon limits and responds to civilian casualties caused by American airstrikes. He called protection of civilians vital to U.S. military success and a "moral imperative."

Austin said in a memo to senior civilian and military officials that he wants the plan to reach his office within 90 days. He said it should outline steps the Pentagon will take, and the resourc-

es it will require, to implement recommendations from previous studies of the problem.

Austin acted following a wave of criticism of the Pentagon for an airstrike in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Aug. 29, 2021, that it initially termed a valid attack, despite 10 civilian deaths, but later acknowledged was a mistake in which the targeted individual turned out to not to be a militant, as first claimed by U.S. Central Command and Pentagon officials.

Austin also ordered the establishment of a "civilian protection center of excel-

lence" to institutionalize improvements in this area.

Earlier Thursday, a federally funded think tank released a report that said the U.S. military follows a flawed and inadequate process for assessing and investigating suspected civilian damage and casualties caused by U.S. airstrikes.

The military's own internal reporting on civilian casualties can be unreliable and incomplete, and the staff who are assigned to work on civilian casualty issues are often inadequately trained and supported, the RAND Corp. report said.

"Without reliable opera-



Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin pauses while speaking during a media briefing at the Pentagon, Nov. 17, 2021, in Washington.

Associated Press

tional data that are easily accessible to commanders, the military will be limited in its ability to understand the root causes of civilian casualties, charac-

terize patterns of harm, and identify specific measures to mitigate civilian harm while preserving mission-effectiveness and force protection," the report said. □

Holocaust novel 'Maus' banned in Tennessee school district

ATHENS, Tenn. (AP) — A Tennessee school district has voted to ban a Pulitzer Prize-winning graphic novel about the Holocaust due to "inappropriate language" and an illustration of a nude woman, according to minutes from a board meeting.

The McMinn County School Board decided Jan. 10 to remove "Maus" from its curriculum, news outlets reported.

Art Spiegelman won the Pulitzer Prize in 1992 for the work that tells the story of his Jewish parents living in 1940s Poland and depicts him interviewing his father about his experiences as a Holocaust survivor.

In an interview, Spiegelman told CNBC he was "baffled" by the school board's decision and called the action "Orwellian."

"It's leaving me with my jaw open, like, 'What?'" he said.

The decision comes as conservative officials across the country have increasingly tried to limit the type of books that children are exposed to, including books that address structural racism and LGBTQ issues. The Republican governors in South Carolina and Texas have called on superintendents to perform a systemic review of "inappropriate" materials in their states' schools



Artist and author Art Spiegelman gets some help with his lunch from Francoise Mouly, of Random House, Inc., during a signing of Spiegelman's new book "In the Shadow of No Towers" at the Book Expo America convention, Saturday, June 5, 2004, in Chicago.

The minutes from the school board meeting indicate objections over some of the language used in "Maus." At first, Director of Schools Lee Parkison suggested redacting it "to get rid of the eight curse words and the picture of the woman that was objected to."

The nude woman is drawn as a mouse. In the graphic novel, Jews are drawn

as mice and the Nazis are drawn as cats.

"It shows people hanging, it shows them killing kids, why does the educational system promote this kind of stuff? It is not wise or healthy," School Board Member Tony Allman said about the book, which was part of the district's eighth-grade English language arts curriculum.

Instructional supervisor Julie Goodin, a former history teacher, said she thought the graphic novel was a good way to depict a horrific event.

"It's hard for this generation, these kids don't even know 9/11, they were not even born," Goodin said. "Are the words objectionable? Yes, there is no one that thinks they aren't. But

by taking away the first part, it's not changing the meaning of what he is trying to portray."

Randi Weingarten, the president of the American Federation of Teachers, which does not play a role in McMinn County, noted the timing of the news on Twitter. Weingarten, who is Jewish, pointed out that Thursday is International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

"Yes it is uncomfortable to talk about genocide, but it is our history and educating about it helps us not repeat this horror," Weingarten said.

The U.S. Holocaust Museum tweeted that "Maus has played a vital role in educating about the Holocaust through sharing detailed and personal experiences of victims and survivors."

The Tennessee school board emphasized in the minutes that they did not object to teaching about the Holocaust but some were concerned the work was not age-appropriate. Although they discussed redacting parts of the book, that led to copyright concerns and board members ultimately decided to look for an alternative book about the subject.

The book isn't the only one banned recently amid critical race theory controversy. □



Coast Guard Cutter Ibis' crew searching for people missing from a capsized boat off the coast of Florida, Tuesday, Jan. 25, 2022.

Associated Press

By **ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON**
Associated Press

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. (AP) — The Coast Guard said Thursday that it had found

four additional bodies in its search for dozens of migrants lost at sea off Florida but would suspend its rescue operations at sunset if

Coast Guard to suspend search for migrants off Florida

it doesn't receive any new information.

Homeland Security Investigations officials said they were actively investigating the case as a human smuggling operation. Authorities have now found a total of five bodies, leaving 34 missing five days after the vessel capsized on the way to Florida from Bimini, a chain of islands in the Bahamas about 55 miles (88 kilometers) east of Miami.

Coast Guard Capt. Jo-Ann F. Burdian said the decision to suspend the search at sunset Thursday, pending

any new discoveries, was not an easy one.

"We have saturated the area over and over again," she told a news conference. "We've had good visibility. ... We've overflowed the vessel a number of times. ... It does mean we don't think it's likely that anyone else has survived." The Miami office of Homeland Security Investigations has launched an inquiry, saying the migrants' journey was most certainly part of a human smuggling operation.

Under federal law, a smuggler convicted of causing

a death is eligible for execution. "The goal of this investigation is to identify, arrest and prosecute any criminal or criminal organization that organized, facilitated or profited from this doomed venture," said HSI Miami Special Agent in Charge Anthony Salisbury. Salisbury declined to give any information on the nationalities of the boat passengers but said investigators consider the lone survivor "a victim right now," not a suspect. Salisbury appealed to the public for tips to help identify who organized the boat crossing. □

Danish troops to leave Mali after call from country's rulers

By JAN M. OLSEN

Associated Press

COPENHAGEN, Denmark

(AP) — Denmark will pull its small military force out of northern Mali after the West African country's transitional government said no permission had been given for them to deploy there, the Danish foreign minister said Thursday.

The government in Bamako, under coup leader Col. Assimi Goita, on Wednesday told Denmark to withdraw its 90-person contingent, which arrived in Mali just a week earlier for a one-year deployment under a European counterterrorism operation.

Danish Foreign Minister Jeppe Kofod announced the pullout Thursday, following a briefing of parliament's foreign policy committee. The minister didn't provide a timeline. "Last night, the coup generals (in Mali) sent out a public statement where they reiterated that Denmark is not welcome," he said. "That we will not accept. We have therefore decided, after consultations in the foreign policy committee and there is backing there that we pull our troops out."



Denmark's Foreign Minister Jeppe Kofod attends a press conference in Belgrade, Serbia, on Aug. 31, 2021.

Associated Press

The Danish contingent includes special operations soldiers, a surgical team and support personnel.

Kofod also said Denmark will "continue the good and close cooperation with our European allies" and keep the pressure on Mali's rulers "to get democracy back, to create safety for the population in Mali,

to fight the terror groups."

On Wednesday, the countries behind the 15-nation European Task Force Takuba that is in Mali on a counterterrorism operation said the Danish presence is legal, and called on Bamako "to respect the solid grounds on which our diplomatic and operational cooperation is based."

The statement expressed "deep regret" that Mali claimed the Danish deployment lacked a proper legal basis and consent from the Malian government.

The Danish Foreign Ministry earlier had said Mali's former president, Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, had requested in 2019 that Denmark send troops to join the

Takuba effort. But less than a year later, Keita was deposed in a military coup.

The ministry said the Danish contribution also had been approved by the current transitional government led by Goita.

"No agreement has authorized the deployment of Danish special forces as part of the Task Force Takuba," it said.

France plays a central role in the European force, and French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian on Thursday denounced "unfounded allegations" against Denmark, saying Mali's "junta is illegitimate and is taking irresponsible measures."

After seizing power in August 2020, Goita initially pledged to uphold Mali's international agreements but recently has shown signs of reluctance, at one point even temporarily grounding U.N. peacekeeping flights in the north. Over the past 18 months, Goita has solidified his control, naming himself president of the government that was supposed to organize new democratic elections by the end of next month. □

EU warns Mali, Sahel states over use of Russian mercenaries

By LORNE COOK

Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Union on Wednesday

warned countries of the north African Sahel against hiring Russian mercenaries, and underlined that it stands ready to impose sanctions on anyone interfering with the transition to civilian rule in Mali.

Mali's interim government has accepted the presence of Wagner Group security contractors on its territory. Last month, the EU slapped sanctions on eight people and three oil companies linked to Wagner, which is accused of rights abuses in the Central African Republic, Libya and Syria.

The EU warning came in a series of meetings between the bloc's foreign policy

chief, Josep Borrell, and the foreign ministers of Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger. A full meeting of the G5 Sahel countries, including Burkina Faso, did not take place due to differences over who could take part. Borrell said he underlined the EU's "deep concern following the confirmed deployment of Russian mercenaries in Mali and the great danger that this poses to civilian populations. This group's methods are incompatible with our collective efforts on security and development."

In a long conversation with Foreign Minister Abdoulaye Diop, Borrell insisted that "the European Union wants to remain engaged in Mali and the Sahel but not at any price."

Of chief concern for the

Europeans in the strategically important but unstable Sahel region, which has proven a fertile breeding ground for extremists, is the decision by Mali's interim government to delay elections due next month until 2026.

The West African regional group ECOWAS imposed tougher economic sanctions on Mali in response. The EU has set up a framework for imposing its own measures on the authorities for holding up the political transition but has not yet pulled the trigger.

Mali has struggled to contain an extremist insurgency since 2012. Rebels were forced from power in northern cities with the help of a French-led military operation, but they regrouped in the desert and began



European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell speaks during a media conference with Canada's Foreign Minister Melanie Joly in Brussels, Jan. 20, 2022.

Associated Press

attacking the Malian army and its allies.

Insecurity has worsened with attacks on civilians and United Nations peacekeepers. The EU has also been training the Mali armed forces and plans to

continue to do so for now despite the severe instability and political upheaval. Borrell said he demanded "concrete guarantees" from Diop to ensure that European help to Mali's security forces can continue. □

Report: 5,000-plus deaths under Ethiopia's Tigray blockade

By CARA ANNA

Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) —

Nearly 1,500 people died of malnutrition in just part of Ethiopia's blockaded Tigray region over a four-month period last year, including more than 350 young children, a new report by the region's health bureau says. It cites more than 5,000 blockade-related deaths in all from hunger and disease in the largest official death toll yet associated with the country's war.

"Deaths are alarmingly increasing," including from easily preventable diseases like rabies as medicines run out or expire, the head of Tigray's health bureau, Hagos Godefay, told The Associated Press late last year as the findings were being compiled. "This is one of the worst times of my life, I can tell you."

His report on the findings, published Wednesday by the independent Ethiopia Insight, says 5,421 deaths were confirmed in Tigray between July and October in an assessment by his bureau and some international aid groups. It was the first such assessment since the war between Tigray and Ethiopian forces began in November 2020, he said. The deaths were over-



An Ethiopian woman scoops up portions of yellow split peas to be allocated to waiting families after it was distributed by the Relief Society of Tigray in the town of Agula, in the Tigray region of northern Ethiopia, on May 8, 2021.

Associated Press

whelmingly from malnutrition, infectious disease and noncommunicable diseases as the health bureau and partners sought to gauge the effects on Tigray's population of its health system being largely destroyed by combatants. The deaths do not reflect people killed in combat, Hagos told the AP on Thursday in a call from the Tigray capital, Mekele, though the report reflects a small percentage of deaths from airstrikes.

The mortality assessment covered just roughly 40% of Tigray, he said, since occupation of some areas by combatants and the lack of fuel caused by the blockade has limited data-gathering and aid delivery. "Since the magnitude of the destruction and health crisis in the inaccessible areas is undoubtedly high, the survey is bound to underreport the real extent of the crisis," Hagos wrote. Severe acute malnutrition in children under 5, at less

than 2% in Tigray before the war, was now above 7%, he said. The assessment found at least 369 children under 5 had died of malnutrition, part of 1,479 people in all. The AP last year confirmed the first starvation deaths under the blockade along with the government's ban on humanitarian workers bringing medicines, even personal ones, into Tigray, Hagos told the AP that without medical supplies or vaccines, easily preventable disease like measles

were emerging in Tigray and COVID-19 has begun to spread. HIV patients "are coming all the time to my office to ask if drugs are coming or not. But my hands are tied," he said. Earlier this month, the United Nations said Ethiopia's government had released over 850,000 measles vaccines to Tigray, Ethiopia's government cut off almost all access to food aid, medical supplies, cash and fuel in June last year when the Tigray forces regained control of the region. Since then, the United Nations has repeatedly warned that less than 15% of the needed supplies have been entering Tigray under what it called a de facto humanitarian blockade. Ethiopia's government has expressed concern about aid falling into the hands of fighters. But under a new wave of pressure this month after Tigray forces retreated back into their region amid a military offensive, Ethiopia's foreign ministry in a statement on Sunday said it was working with aid partners to facilitate daily cargo flights to Tigray "to transport much-needed medicines and supplies." The government in part has blamed issues with aid delivery on insecurity it says is caused by Tigray forces. □

Thailand deploys more assets as oil slick threatens beaches

By CHALIDA EKVITTHAY-
AVECHNUKUL.

Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — An aircraft from a company specializing in recoveries from



In this photo released by the Royal Thai Navy, an aerial view from a navy plane shows cleanup efforts of a large oil spill off the coast of Rayong, eastern Thailand, Thursday, Jan. 27, 2022.

Associated Press

oil spills arrived Thursday from Malaysia to join an urgent effort to clean up an oil slick before it could hit beaches in eastern Thailand, officials said. The C-130 joined other planes, ships and a helicopter deployed by the Thai navy to contain the damage from the Star Petroleum Refining Public Company's oil that leaked Tuesday night from a mooring station in the Gulf of Thailand. Information from Thailand's Geo-Informatics and Space Technology Development Agency suggested that prevailing winds could blow the oil slick to major beaches in Rayong province or Samet

Island by Friday evening if not cleaned up before then, said Thai navy's Rear Adm. Wichanu Thupa-ang. He said the agency's report estimated that the slick covered 11.65 square kilometers (4.5 square miles). Star Petroleum Refining estimated that a total of 20-50 tons of oil had been spilled. It said in a statement that the amount of oil in the slick has been reduced to 5.3 tons since dispersant sprays were deployed by aircraft Wednesday. Some initial estimates of the amount of spilled oil were much higher. Star Petroleum said specialists from the company Oil Spill Response Ltd arrived

with the C-130 aircraft. Wichanu said the largest part of the oil slick would be contained by booms within an area marked by buoys and then sucked by skimmers into holding tanks and properly disposed of. At the same time, the oil headed toward the beach would also be contained and redirected to the open sea, he said. Pornsri Sutthanarak, deputy director-general of the Marine and Coastal Resources Department, said that if the oil reaches the coast, it might affect 59 acres of coral and 118 acres of sea-grass, causing environmental damage that would take time to rehabilitate. □

Honduras' next president sworn in amid uncertainty

By SONIA PÉREZ D.
and MARLON GONZÁLEZ
Associated Press

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP) — Thousands of Hondurans amid a sea of waving flags in the national stadium saw Xiomara Castro sworn in Thursday as Honduras' first female president.

The 62-year-old Castro faces high expectations to turn around the deeply troubled country amid uncertainty about whether an unfolding legislative crisis will allow her the support she needs.

Relatively smooth elections and a healthy margin of victory Nov. 28 came as a relief, but political maneuvering in the run-up to Castro's inauguration has muddled the outlook and distracted from what was to be a hopeful new beginning after the two terms of President Juan Orlando Hernández.

Honduras has been engulfed by a dispute over who will lead the newly elected Congress. Two congressional leadership teams have been selected — neither legitimately according to experts — and their standoff threatens legislative paralysis at a time that Castro desperately needs to quickly get to work addressing Honduras' problems.

Elected lawmakers from Castro's own Liberty and Refoundation Party backed one of their own to be the new legislative body's president Friday rather than support Castro's choice, which had been agreed with her vice president to win his party's support. Neither group backed down leading to surreal simultaneous legislative sessions Tuesday.

Luis Ruiz, a 52-year-old Castro supporter and fruit vendor near the Congress, said the political disagreement threatened to divide the country. "She (Castro) has to resolve this situation through dialogue," Ruiz said. "She hasn't taken power and she's already having problems, she must show her leadership."

High unemployment, per-



President-elect Xiomara Castro arrives with her husband, former President Manuel Zelaya who was ousted by a military coup, for Castro's inauguration as the first female president in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, Thursday, Nov. 27, 2022.

Associated Press

sistent violence, corruption as well as troubled health care and educational systems are just some of the pressing challenges awaiting Castro.

The United States government, seeing an opportunity to gain an ally in a region with few friends, has strongly backed Castro and stands ready to provide support. In a possible sign of tensions in the region, presidents from neighbors El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua were not scheduled to attend.

Vice President Kamala Harris, who was given the task of addressing the root causes of Central American migration, arrived in Tegucigalpa Thursday leading the U.S. delegation.

Washington sees areas for cooperation on Castro's priorities of battling corruption and increasing economic opportunities in her country, two areas that could affect decisions by Hondurans on whether to stay or try to migrate to the United States.

"Honduras has been a very difficult partner for the United States, especially during the administration of Juan Orlando Hernandez for a number of reasons, including the consistent swirl of illegal activity around him and his family," said Jason

Marczak, senior director of the Adrienne Arsht Latin America Center at the Atlantic Council.

"The anti-corruption agenda being front and center and her (Castro's) pledges is music to the ears of the Biden-Harris administration, given its focus on rooting out corruption not only in Central America but its global efforts on corruption," he said.

Castro has said she plans to formally invite the United Nations to set up an anti-corruption mission in Honduras.

José Manuel Suazo, 22, waited for Castro's appearance inside the stadium. He said he voted for Castro, and believes many other young people did too, because he wants her to attack corruption and end impunity.

Harris was scheduled to meet privately with Castro shortly after her inauguration. Castro and Harris spoke by phone Dec. 10. Castro won on her third bid for the presidency. She was previously first lady during the presidency of her husband, Manuel Zelaya, which was cut short by a military coup in 2009.

On Thursday, just hours before her inauguration, Castro announced her cabinet picks via Twitter. There were two women out of 16

announced positions. Her son Hector Zelaya, will be her private secretary and Manuel Zelaya's nephew,

José Manuel Zelaya, is her choice for defense secretary. Ramón Sabillón, a former National Police chief, who recently returned after years living in exile in the United States, was her pick for security minister.

Many voters this time said they were motivated above all by the possibility of removing Hernández's National Party from power. Hernández was first elected in 2013 and a friendly Supreme Court allowed him to overcome a constitutional ban on re-election and run again in 2017 in an election plagued by irregularities.

Federal prosecutors in New York have repeatedly spoken of Hernández's purported ties to drug trafficking, alleging his political rise was funded in part by drug profits. Hernández has not been formally charged and has repeatedly denied the accusations. □



Snow covers the Dome of the Rock Mosque in the Al Aqsa Mosque compound in Jerusalem Old city, Thursday, Jan. 27, 2022.

Associated Press

Jerusalem blanketed in white after rare snowfall

JERUSALEM (AP) — Jerusalem was blanketed in white on Thursday after a winter storm covered much of the region's higher altitudes with snow.

The holy city's iconic golden Dome of the Rock was dusted in snow.

Main highways to Jerusalem and its major arteries were shut, and schools and businesses closed for the day as municipal snowplows worked to clear streets.

Israel Police also closed major highways in the mountainous West Bank due to the hazardous road conditions.

Snowfall in the hills around Jerusalem is uncommon, occurring perhaps once per winter.


A winter storm has been battering the eastern Mediterranean, bringing heavy rains and wind to the Middle East. Istanbul and Athens were covered in snow earlier this week. □

Fit2fly COVID-19 Testing Center

NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED!

NAAT (Abott ID):
Result in 30 minutes!

PCR / Antigen Test
SAME DAY RESULT!



MedCare Clinic
URGENT CARE

Tel: (+297) 280-0630
info@medcare.aw / www.medcare.aw

Locations: **The Cove Mall** (8:00 AM - 6:00 PM) **Medcare near Courtyard by Marriott** (8:00 AM - 2:00 PM)

Promotion Frank Plomp to Captain of the Marines starts new function as Adjutant of the Governor of Aruba



ORANJESTAD - On Wednesday, January 26, 2022, the Governor of Aruba, H.E. Alfonso Boekhoudt, and the Commander of the Marine Barracks Savaneta, LTKOLMARN Art van Beekhuizen, promoted Lieutenant of the Marines Frank Plomp to Captain of the Marines.

The promotion took place at Cas Ceremonial di Gobernador. The promotion of Captain Plomp coincides with the start of his new position as Adjutant to the Governor of Aruba. He replaces Captain of the Marines of Aruba, Mike Ligtoet. Captain Plomp started his career in 1987 as Ma-

rine 1 General. His career is characterized by various operational placements and deployments. In recent years, Frank Plomp has served as Head of Training Unit at the Marine Training Center in Rotterdam and has been involved in the development of the new Marine Barracks in Nieuw-Milligen. He also has some years of experience with Aruba as he worked at Marine Barracks Savaneta from 2011 to 2015.

Photo credit: Kabinet van de Gouverneur van Aruba

Aruba to me

ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again. ☐

MOVE IN READY!!



HARBOUR HOUSE
Aruba

THE *NEW* DOWNTOWN LIVING

With the Most Spectacular View

Don't Miss Out 85% Already Sold!!

Visit us and check it out for yourself

(+297) 594 6395

Weststraat 2 | O'Stad, Aruba | sales@harbourhousearuba.com
WWW.HARBOURHOUSEARUBA.COM



WIN \$10 UP TO \$1,000 IN FREE SLOT PLAY THE DAY YOU JOIN THE CLUB!

50/30
Friday!We're giving away
\$50 Free Slot Play
to lucky slot and table
game players **every**
30 minutes from
7pm to Midnight!**THE SHOPS
AT ALHAMBRA CASINO**Offering a wide variety of Retail & Dining Outlets,
Salon & Spa Services, Souvenirs and more.Dunkin Donuts | Baskin Robbins | Fusion Piano & Wine Bar
Hungry Piranha | Twist of Flavors | Juan Valdez Café
The Brownstone Ribs & Seafood
Coming Soon: Auntie Anne's PretzelsAlhambra
CASINO AND SHOPS

Open daily 10am to 1am | J.E. Irausquin Blvd #47 | 583.5000 | casinoalhambra.com

Play Responsibly. Visit www.gamblersanonymous.org if you or someone you know has a gambling problem.**Medlab Aruba 'fit-2-fly':
Covid-19 testing on the island**

NOORD — While on vacation, the last thing you need to worry about is what to do or where to go for your COVID-19 testing. Many countries, including the U.S. require for all passengers heading back home to present with a negative test result for PCR or Antigen 72 hours prior to departure.

MEDLAB Aruba is an accredited ISO 15189:2012 OGA-LE 23-08 laboratory with over 30 years of experience on the island. The laboratory complies with the Department of Public Health of Aruba, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) requirements for COVID -19 testing. MEDLAB Aruba has been assigned as one of the private laboratories authorized to perform "Fit-2-Fly" testing for departing passengers.

Hassle free scheduling – QR-code

The laboratory has invested on the only fully integrated digital booking platform on the island that allows guests to pre-register for the testing prior to coming to Aruba and have all their information incorporated upon entry to any of the available testing centers. Guests will receive a confirmation email with QR-code that will be requested upon day of testing to facilitate a faster turn-around time for your results.

Testing options

Offering three method of testing gives you, our island visitors, the possibility to choose which service is at your convenience. Recommended time to complete test prior to

departure is 48 (72) hours. We also request for you to bring your passport to the appointment.

Testing Option 1: Walk-In service at our location in Noord Medical Center (NMC), Noord 63 or at Superfood COVID Testing Center. You may also book online at WWW.COVIDARUBA.COM and choose location.

Testing Option 2: On-site at participating hotels. Only guests staying on these properties will be allowed to conduct the test. Appointment is also made online at WWW.COVIDARUBA.COM.

The participating hotels with testing facilities are Aruba Marriott Resort (Stellaris, Ocean and Surf Club), Holiday Inn, Playa Linda Beach Resort, RIU Antillas, RIU Palace, Eagle Resort, Costa Linda Beach Resort, Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort, Manchebo Beach Resort, Casa del Mar & Aruba Beach Club, Caribbean Palm Village.

Testing Option 3: Airbnb/ Other hotel location. We come to you for the test together with our vehicular Mobile Health Test Unit. We require a minimum of six people for this service. Request/ Book appointment through WhatsApp number +297 5975548.

Price

Offering a great rate for the testing. The Antigen test is at \$50 and the PCR at \$100. Payment method is card (preferred), cash (hygiene measures).

The COVID Test is not covered by the Aruba Visitor's Insurance, but you are able to



seek reimbursement once back home.

Results

Turn-around time for results is within 24 hours. Result is sent electronically to your

email (check spam/ junk folder)

For more information visit www.covidaruba.com, call us at +297 5975548 or email us at covid@lab.aw. □

Open: Daily
From: 5:00pm to 10:00pm
Tel.: 583-2666
Website: www.pinchosaruba.comOpen: Daily for Lunch and Dinner
From: 10:30 am to 10:00 pm
Tel.: 587-2667
Website: www.thewestdeck.com

Short history of the beginnings of baseball in Aruba

ORANJESTAD — Baseball was played on the island of Aruba in the 1930's, but only by United States expatriates working for LAGO and living inside the LAGO colony. Jim Bluejacket, the legendary US Indian who had played in two major league teams, worked for LAGO during 14 years and was a key factor in the growth of the popularity of the game in the colony. There is no record of Bluejacket ever playing outside the colony.

Outside the colony, the game of baseball was introduced to Aruba by Venezuelan immigrants and sailors on the Venezuelan fishing boats that used Aruba as their home port. They formed pick-up teams and played games on Sundays on an open field behind what is now the Court of Justice. One of the Venezuelans that comes to mind is Felix Garrido, grandfather of our current Prime-Minister. In the late 30s the leader of this group was Raúl Aparicio, a cousin of Luis Aparicio who is now enshrined in the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. The Aparicios were evidently very good at sports. Raúl had two brothers who also played baseball, René and Roman. Rosendo, his only brother who did not play baseball became a professional soccer player in the Venezuelan league. Rosendo was nicknamed "Cabeza de oro" (golden head) for a memorable header he scored to win a game for his team. Interestingly, it was in Aruba that Luis Aparicio played his first game outside of Venezuela. This took place in 1950 when he played shortstop for the school he attended. Later he played for "Cabimas" in a doubleheader of the Venezuelan Western League. These official games of the league were authorized to be played in Aruba by the Professional Baseball Organization of Venezuela. Several others who played in those games have also been enshrined.

Luis Aparicio's father was the super popular Luis "El Grande" (the great one) after whom the baseball stadium in Maracaibo is named. He and his brother owned the professional baseball teams "Gavilanes" which later became the "Aguilas", and the "Cabimas".

In the early '40s, another group, mostly immigrants from the Dominican Republic also became very active with pickup teams. Some of these remained active in baseball well into the early '50s; as umpires, managers even as players. Among these were Nestor "Pantin" Guerrero who also had a musical band.



Perhaps not so coincidentally, many of Pantin's players were also musicians. Luthai Pantophlet who umpired many years was a well-known drummer. Gaston Hazel was a bongo player; José Bryson and the brothers Nicholson, Teddy and Julio, all played several instruments. In San Nicolas, baseball was played on the grounds next to where the LAGO Sport Park (now Laveist Sport Park) was officially inaugurated in March 1941.

During the WWII years, baseball got a big lift from the influx of Puerto Rican and US soldiers stationed here. As LAGO was playing a very important role in the struggle against Hitler, it was able to get all the sports equipment needed here to allow more people to participate. In the '40s only the Lago Sports Park organized baseball championship games. The first teams to participate were Artraco, (Aruba Trading Co.), Esso Garage and Botica San Lucas. In 1945 Venezuelan employees of the Lago refinery participated under the name of "Cafenol", a very popular Venezuelan coffee brand. Two other groups of Venezuelan immigrants formed the teams "Cerveceria" (named after the iconic team Cerveceria Caracas), and "Venezuela", although not all members of these teams were Venezuelans. This was also the year that the team sponsored by Roxy Café started to play as "Dodgers".

Dodgers became the dominant baseball powerhouse till the 1950s. Other teams that entered the baseball scene in the late 1940s: Pepsi Cola (Oranjestad) and St. Thomas Boys (former students of St. Thomas College, Oranjestad). "Baby Ruth" in San Nicolas played initially under the name "Camel" and "Barnes' Ramblers" the only team consisting of Lago Colony players to participate in the Lago Sport Park championships. "Red Rock Cola" was formed in Oranjestad in 1950.

In 1952 the team Pepsi Cola became "Nesbitt's" and had players of seven countries, including two American expats from Lago Colony.

In 1950 a group of prominent

members of the Aruba community founded the Amateur Baseball Bond of Aruba (ABBA) to give structure to the management of the sport and became the organizers of official championship games. While maintaining the existing teams in a league that was referred to as A-class, ABBA established a B-class league in which the "Budweiser" and "Braves" played the first years.

By 1952 Aruba became a member of the International Amateur Baseball Association and fielded a team managed by Joe Proterra, (former pitcher of "Barnes' Ramblers"), that would play for the first time ever in the Amateur Baseball World Series that took place in Havana, Cuba in September. Surprisingly, Aruba won two of its six games and became the darling of the Havana fans. Nell Harms of the Aruban team was named the "Outstanding player of the week" for his performance against Honduras. He allowed just two hits, struck out 15 and hit the only homerun of the game. Joe Cambria, the famous scout for the Washington Senators offered him a contract, but Nel was not interested, but the next year, at the Amateur Baseball World Series in Caracas, Venezuela, Nel and Ruben Phillips did sign and in 1954 they played professional baseball the Georgia-Florida League and the Texas-New Mexico League. They were the first Arubans to play professionally, but not the only ones. During the games in Havana, contacts were made with the organizers of Little League Baseball in Cuba which eventually resulted in the introduction of Little League in Aruba. Little League of Aruba has been extremely successful: It has produced many players who earned baseball scholarships at universities in the United States, a few who played professionally in the Netherlands and different countries in the Caribbean and five who reached the major leagues: Calvin Maduro, Eugene Kingsale, Radhames Dijkhoff, Sydney Ponson, and Xander Bogaerts one of the brightest stars of Boston Red Sox. □

How to score points in the credit game

By BEV O'SHEA
of NerdWallet

Credit scoring can feel like a frustrating game — falls can be sudden and swift, and climbing is a slow slog. In reality, “all scoring models and lenders are aiming to do the same thing, which is to minimize risk and things like missing payments, high balances,” says Jeff Richardson, senior vice president of marketing and communications for VantageScore, one of the two leading credit scoring companies.

The traditional advice of paying on time and keeping balances low will eventually result in decent credit. But you can speed it up.

CHECK YOUR CREDIT

To start, take a look at your credit reports by using AnnualCreditReport.com. Check to see that the information is accurate, especially for addresses you don't recognize, since that can suggest fraudulent accounts or same-name mix-ups. Also make sure account numbers and activity are what you expect. You can dispute errors, and the change in score after a successful dispute could be significant.

AVOID COSTLY MISSTEPS

Next, avoid doing things that work against building your credit. These include:

- Paying late — the impact is large and lasting.
- Closing credit cards — it can reduce your overall credit limit and the length of your credit history.
- Applying for a lot of cred-



Credit cards as seen Thursday, July 1, 2021, in Orlando, Fla.

it at once — credit checks can nick your score.

— Letting card balances stay above 30% of the limit — credit utilization, or the portion of your limit you have in use, has a major impact on scores.

While paying down balances is a good idea, it's not always realistic.

BE STRATEGIC

If you're whittling down credit card balances, be strategic. The number of cards with balances influences credit scores, says credit expert John Ulzheimer. The “snowball method” of debt repayment focuses on wiping out your smallest balances first.

Relatedly, if you have only one credit card, Ulzheimer says adding a card or two could be useful. Assuming

your spending stays about the same, the credit limits on the new cards will reduce your overall credit utilization. And if your card is lost or stolen, you still have access to credit.

You can move credit card debt to a personal loan or even a 401(k) loan, essentially making it disappear from credit utilization calculations. But if you have not addressed the circumstances that led to the high balances, a new loan could be a step deeper into debt.

ADD POSITIVE INFORMATION

Credit slip-ups can hurt, but adding positive information to your credit reports can help counteract the damage. There are at least five ways to get on the credit

radar or to rehabilitate a damaged score.

AUTHORIZED USER: If you have a friend or relative with a long credit history, a high score and relatively high credit limits, ask if they are willing to add you as an authorized user. Authorized user status allows additional good data to your credit history, such as on-time payments, credit age and low credit utilization. Authorized user status is most powerful for people who have no credit report or a thin file. Its impact can be felt as soon as it's reported to the credit bureaus.

STORE CREDIT CARD: Retail credit cards typically have more flexibility in approving applications, says Max Axler, deputy chief credit officer of Synchrony, a con-

sumer finance company that issues credit cards across a variety of industries. He says Synchrony uses VantageScore 4.0 as part of its decision making and may also consider other factors, such as banking activity, customer history and cell phone payments. Store credit cards tend to carry high interest rates, so try to pay in full every month or finish a 0% promotion plan well before it ends.

SECURED CREDIT CARDS: As their name implies, secured credit cards are secured by a deposit with the issuing bank. Your credit limit is typically equal to your deposit. As with any other credit card, it's best to keep your credit utilization well under 30%.

CREDIT-BUILDER LOANS:

These turn traditional loans upside down. Instead of getting a lump sum at the beginning and then paying it back, you make payments and get the lump sum at the end of the loan term.

CO-SIGNED CREDIT: Some lenders will approve you for a loan if someone with stronger credit co-signs the loan. It can help credit even if the primary borrower was never expected to pay (as with parents buying their child a car). However, both signers are fully on the hook for the loan, and the loan could limit the co-signer's borrowing power. If the primary borrower doesn't pay or pays late, the co-signer's credit is on the line. □

Lowe's teams up with Petco to offer pet supplies, services

By DEE-ANN DURBIN
AP Business Writer

Lowe's is teaming up with Petco to offer pet departments within its stores, betting that customers want cans of dog food along with their cans of paint.

The first Lowe's with a Petco is expected to open in February in Alamo Ranch, Texas. Fourteen additional Lowe's locations in Texas, North Carolina and South Carolina will get Petco

centers by the end of March, the company said. The Petco mini stores will offer food as well as pet services, including vaccination clinics. Mobile grooming services will also be offered.

This is the first store-within-a-store pairing for both Lowe's and San Diego-based Petco. Petco operates more than 1,500 stores in the U.S., Mexico and Puerto Rico. Lowe's has

2,200 stores in the U.S. and Canada.

“For many of our customers, their pets and their homes top the list of things that matter most, especially after two years spent mostly together within the same four walls,” said Bill Boltz, Lowe's executive vice president of merchandising.

The move could set Lowe's apart from rival Home Depot, which doesn't sell pet



Shoppers walk in the lot of a Lowe's home improvement store in Philadelphia, Wednesday, Nov. 17, 2021.

Associated Press

food, and help it compete with stores like Menards and Tractor Supply,

which also sell pet food and home improvement products. □

CROSSWORD

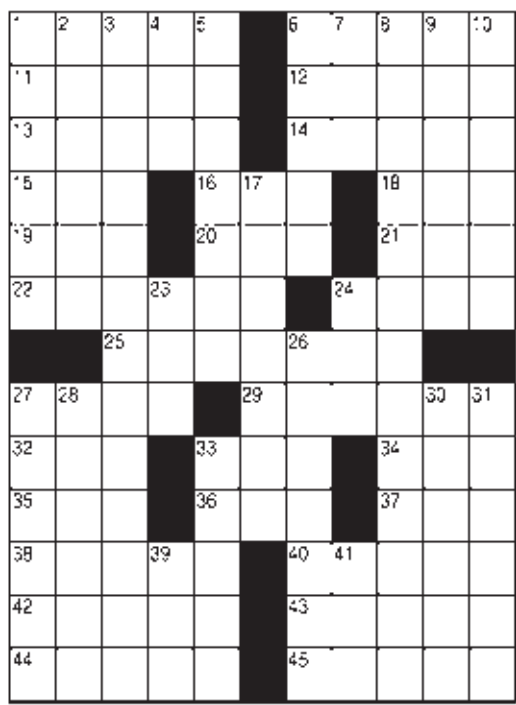
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 37 Lawyer: Abbr.
 - 1 Cut, in a way
 - 6 Computer woe
 - 11 Catcher's spot
 - 12 Blow one's top
 - 13 Jimmy Smits series
 - 14 Singer Travis
 - 15 Be inquisitive
 - 16 Mideast-ern fruit
 - 18 Zero
 - 19 Enjoy Aspen
 - 20 Top pitcher
 - 21 Mamie's husband
 - 22 Jug part
 - 24 Addition column
 - 25 Poe story focus
 - 27 Endure
 - 29 Native groups
 - 32 Drama division
 - 33 Floral ring
 - 34 "— Clear Day"
 - 35 Avril follower
 - 36 Holm of "The Hobbit"
- DOWN**
- 1 Dive sound
 - 2 Denali setting
 - 3 Long insects
 - 4 Greek vowel
 - 5 Moisture formation on lawns
 - 6 Brink
 - 7 Lyricist Gershwin
 - 8 Old auto parts
 - 9 "Rabbit, Run" writer
 - 10 Modes
 - 17 Summer cooler
 - 23 Period
 - 24 Yves's yes
 - 26 Raise
 - 27 Hedy of "Algiers"
 - 28 Spiny tree
 - 30 Menu choice
 - 31 Revelers of myth
 - 33 Deceitful bunch
 - 39 Gym unit
 - 41 Bustle

HATER TACIT
ELOPE ERODE
RIPEN NIXON
LEERED
TAQ WET BOA
ISATIAH BOSS
MIDDLEWATCH
IDES AORTAE
DER ATEORS
CESIUM
LIMOS SLOOP
ALAMO MAUDE
BLEEP ENTER

Yesterday's answer

- 5 Moisture formation on lawns
- 6 Brink
- 7 Lyricist Gershwin
- 8 Old auto parts
- 9 "Rabbit, Run" writer
- 10 Modes
- 17 Summer cooler
- 23 Period
- 24 Yves's yes
- 26 Raise
- 27 Hedy of "Algiers"
- 28 Spiny tree
- 30 Menu choice
- 31 Revelers of myth
- 33 Deceitful bunch
- 39 Gym unit
- 41 Bustle



1-28

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

1-28

CRYPTOQUOTE

NYBOYID BMWCTV KY YXNAYV

KR XIDGWAB, XAV AWD

XIPC GNYV KR RYXNB

— BWCNTY CALAWUA

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: MODERN DIPLOMATS APPROACH EVERY PROBLEM WITH AN OPEN MOUTH. — ARTHUR GOLDBERG

Americans' trust in science now deeply polarized, poll shows

By SETH BORENSTEIN and HANNAH FINGERHUT
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans' faith in science is falling as Democrats rely on it even more, with a trust gap in science and medicine widening substantially during the COVID-19 pandemic, new survey data shows. It's the largest gap in nearly five decades of polling by the General Social

Survey, a widely respected trend survey conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago that has been measuring confidence in institutions since 1972.

That is unsurprising to more than a dozen scientists reached for comment by The Associated Press, but it concerns many of them.

"We are living at a time when people would rather put urine or cleaning chemicals in their body than scientifically vetted vaccines," University of Georgia meteorology professor Marshall Shepherd told the AP in an email.

"That is a clear convergence of fear, lack of critical thinking, confirmation bias and political tribalism." Science used to be something all Americans would get behind, Rice University historian Douglas Brinkley said. "But we now see it falling prey to the great partisan divide," he said. "The world of science should be a meeting house where right and left can agree on data. Instead, it's becoming a sharp razor's edge of conflict." Overall, 48% of Americans say they have "a great deal" of confidence in the scientific community, the 2021 General Social Survey data

shows. Sixty-four percent of Democrats say that, compared with roughly half as many Republicans, 34%. The gap was much smaller in 2018, when 51% of Democrats and 42% of Republicans had high confidence. The poll also found a gap emerging on confidence in medicine, driven primarily by increasing confidence among Democrats. Forty-five percent of Democrats said they had a great deal of confidence in medicine, compared with 34% of Republicans.

The deepening polarization was not evident for other institutions asked about on the poll, according to Jennifer Benz, deputy director of The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. "It's certainly plausible that this is a result of how politicized the pandemic became in the months between when it emerged and when the survey ran," Benz said. "It is definitely a stark change for these particular trends on confidence in scientific leaders and leaders in medicine, to see this degree of polarization."

The data suggest Republicans and Democrats are following the cues of their leaders, said Anthony Leiserowitz, director of the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication. □



Marriott Aruba Surf Club PLATINUM SEASON

2 Bed Oceanfront \$25,000
2 Bed Oceanside \$17,500
2 Bed Ocean view \$16,500
2 Bed Garden view \$15,500
3 Bed Ocean view \$28,000
WK 51 Garden view \$42,500
WK 52 Oceanside \$55,000
WK 7 and 14 - all views

GOLD SEASON

2 Bed Oceanfront \$14,000
2 Bed Oceanside \$11,000
2 Bed Ocean view \$8,000
2 Bed Garden view \$6,000
3 Bed Ocean view \$13,000

Marriott Aruba Ocean Club PLATINUM SEASON

2 Bed Oceanfront \$29,000
2 Bed Ocean view \$18,000
1 Bed ocean front \$13,000
1 Bed ocean View \$11,000

GOLD SEASON

2 Bed Oceanfront \$14,000
2 Bed Ocean view \$9,500
1 Bed oceanfront \$9,000
1 Bed ocean View \$6,500

FOR RENT
DIVI DUTCH
Unit for 6

FOR RENT
DIVI DUTCH

Unit for 6
one week april 06 to april 16
2Beds / 2 Baths \$ 2,300.00
More info 305 5927333

La Cabana Beach Resort

1 Bed wk 51 \$6,500

Divi Aruba Phoenix

1 bed wk 20 unit 633 \$11,000
2 bed wk 11 unit 101 ground floor
expires 2037 \$16,500
Other weeks are also available.

We are the #1
Rental Timeshare
agent for Aruba!

We also RENT Aruba weeks for owners, Contact us to BUY, SELL or RENT any timeshare property.

Contact:
michelle@conciergerealty.com
888-888-2204 Ext 104

Website:
www.conciergerealty.com
Broker: Michelle Donato
www.facebook.com/groups/MarriottArubaSurf/
www.facebook.com/groups/MarriottArubaOcean

Time Share Resales + Realty

Own or Rent a piece of the Rock
For up to 70 % Off stay @5 Star Resort

* All inventory available

Visit our website :

www.halleytimetravelaruba.com

For more info call:(297) 630-1307

johnnypaes@gmail.com

also visit(new):

www.halleyadventures.com

Hot Escort Aruba
High Quality Model Escorts
www.HotEscortAruba.com
HotEscortAruba@gmail.com
WhatsApp or Call 24/7
+297-5692030

Classifieds

HTTA

Are you serious about selling your time share or condo ?
Contact the experts !
37 years doing honest business
Call: 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

HTTA

Divi Village
Eagle Beach
Studio week # 1 room #3101
30 weeks remain \$5 K
Studio week # 4 room # 8203
31 weeks remain \$7 K
Call : 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

HTTA

Divi Village
Eagle Beach
Studio week # 5 room # 8105
15 weeks remain \$7 K
Studio week # 6 room #6202
16 weeks remain \$7 K
Call:011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

HTTA

Divi Village Golf
Eagle beach
2 BR week # 1,2,3 room # 2308/2309
25 weeks remain on each
Price : \$ 16 K each
Studio week #5 room # 2123
23 weeks remain \$ 8 K
Call : 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

HTTA

Divi Village Golf
2 BR Week # 3 Room # 4215/4216
23 weeks remain \$16 K
1 BR week # 5 room # 2321
30 weeks remain \$9 K
Call:011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

HTTA

Divi Village Golf
Eagle Beach
1 BR week # 3,4,5 room # 4226
25 weeks remain \$9 K each
2 BR Week # 4 room # 2359/2360
25 weeks remain \$ 16 K
Call: 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

HTTA

Divi Village Golf
Eagle beach
Studio week # 2 room # 4205
22 weeks remain \$8 K
1 BR week # 3 room # 4102
22 weeks remain \$ 8 K
Call:011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

HTTA

Divi Village Golf
Eagle Beach
1 BR Week # 6 room # 2201
18 weeks remain \$ 8 K
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

HTTA

Eagle resort
Eagle beach
2 BR week 2,3,4 room # 3508
Price : \$18 K each
3 BR week 5 and 6 room # 1550
Price : \$ 20 K each
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

HTTA

La Cabana Beach and Casino
Eagle Beach
1 BR Week # 7 room # 336 A
Pool/ Ocean View
Saturday check in
Price : \$ 11 K
Call: 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

HTTA

Divi Village Golf
Studio week 5,6,7,8,9
Room # 2350
35 weeks remain
Price : \$ 8 K each week
Call: 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

HTTA

Marriott Surf Club
Palm beach
Platinum
2 BR Garden view \$17 K
2 BR Ocean view \$18 K
2 BR Ocean side \$19 K
2 BR Ocean Front \$28 K
3 BR Ocean View \$30K
Call : 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

HTTA

Marriott Ocean Club
Palm Beach
Platinum
1 BR Ocean View \$12 K
1 BR Ocean Front \$15 K
2 BR Ocean View \$ 18 K
2 BR Ocean Front \$ 27 K
Call:011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

HTTA

Condo Le Vent
Eagle beach
3 BR ,2 Bath ground floor
\$790 K
3 BR ,3 1/2 bath ground floor
\$1 Million
3 BR 3 1/2 bath 5 th floor
\$1,1 Million
Call:011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

HTTA

House for sale
Alto Vista Noord
3 BR , 2 Bath Ocean view with
1 Appartment
Price : \$500 K
Call : 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

HTTA

Condo at Tierra Del Sol
Comunity gated
3 Bedroom 2 1/2 Bath
Ocean View with garage
Price :\$450 K
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

HTTA

Condo Gold Coast
Comunity gated
2 BR , 2 Bath \$ 290 K
3 BR , 2 Bath \$ 470 K
2 BR , 2 Bath with pool \$370 K
Call:011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

For Sale by Owner

Caribbean Palm Village Resort
Wk 50-2BR/28th, \$1,900
Wks 51&52-/2BR/28th, \$2,900
Wks 51&52/1BR/2Bth, \$1,900
Wk 52-1BR/2Bth, \$2,500
Wk 11-2BR/2Bth, \$1,900
Wk 12-1 BR/2Bth, \$1,200
Wk 13-2 BR/2Bth, \$1,300
Contact:
sales.aruba@hotmail.com

215061

FOR SALE

Casa Del Mar
Presidential Suite
2BR/ 2Bath
Week 3 Unit 1213
Price: \$21,500
joescarpato2013@gmail.com
C: (US) 610-937-3086 or 3085

214936

Casa del Mar 2BR/2B

Week 2/1113 (17k);
Week 5/1315 (19k);
Week 8/1113 (18k);
Week 8/1409 (18k);
Week 9/1218 (16k);
Week 10/1207 (16k);
Week 13/1509 (13k);
Week 14/1308 (13k);
Week 15/1217 (10k).
CDMOwner@gmail.com
U.S. Cell: (860)992-3890

214832



Editor
Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.
Acc. #23951903
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

Assistant Director

Xiomara Arends

Editors

Liza Koolman (Management assistant)

Richard Brooks

Sales

Linda Reijnders

Sulaika Croes

Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto

Pilar Flores

Columnists

Anthony Croes

Weststraat 22

T: 582-7800

E: news@arubatoday.com

W: www.arubatoday.com

@arubatoday



HEALTH

DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad

Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm
Tel. 527 4000

San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours
Tel.524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:

Eagle Tel. 587 9011

San Nicolas:

San Nicolas Tel. 584 5712

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850
Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
Urgent Care 586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051

Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989

Fundacion Contra Violencia
Relacional Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

General Info

Phone Directory Tel. 118



'Pam & Tommy' recaps sex tape drama through a #MeToo lens

By ALICIA RANCILIO

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — An impactful, if not cringe-worthy moment in the new Hulu series, "Pam & Tommy," is when Lily James as Pamela Anderson is interviewed by Jay Leno on "The Tonight Show" and he asks her about her sex tape with then-husband Tommy Lee. "What's it like to have that kind of exposure?" He asks. "What's it like?" responds Lily James as Anderson. "It's horrible ... It's devastating."

Jokes about the sex tape were regular monologue fodder for Leno at the time. What perhaps was amusing in 1996 is disturbing in 2022. James says this fresh perspective is a point of the series, based on a Rolling Stone article written by Amanda Chicago Lewis in 2014. "We're looking back at these stories as kind of reckonings and realizing our own culpability in the way people have been treated and how as a society we treat women, particularly, not only through the media, but in all different levels," said James. "It's good to provoke a conversation, and it's important for us all to sort of look inward and look at ourselves and try and do better."

Yes, "Pam & Tommy" recreates the whirlwind courtship of a rock musician and TV star and their



This image released by Hulu shows Sebastian Stan, right, and Lily James in the series "Pam & Tommy," premiering Feb. 2.

Associated Press

impulsive marriage. But the big takeaway for viewers is that the sex tape was not leaked to the public by Anderson or Lee, nor was it sold by them either. The tape was discovered in a safe that was stolen from their home by a carpenter (portrayed by Seth Rogen, an executive producer on the project) who had been fired from a construction job at their house. When Lee refused to pay him or give him his tools, he snuck back onto the property and stole the safe, hoping there was money and valuables inside. The tape ended up exchanging various hands,

sold and also posted online. While the series is entertaining, sometimes funny, and has a good soundtrack, it can be sad and infuriating too. It's about how this couple had their privacy invaded, leading to major stress in their lives and on their marriage. Anderson has said they never made any money from the tape and she has never seen it.

So, how do you begin to portray a couple with larger-than-life personas, especially when neither Anderson or Lee are involved in the project? A lot of research, says Stan,

not to mention hours in the makeup chair for both actors. "I don't have a single tattoo on my body, so the idea of being completely covered in tattoos was nerve-racking because I felt like I don't know what that is. I don't have that confidence to go and do that," said Stan. "So it was really scary. But then obviously, Tommy looked a certain way. There was a weight loss that I had to kind of do. I had to sort of eat very specifically, and I would do these long fasting periods and then I would run and hike and, you know, try and get 20,000

steps a day. And that was four months."

James said she and Stan "would go up and down" as to rating their own performances.

"Sometimes you'd feel really in it and on. When I had the final fittings and the costume and the hair and the makeup and everything was going on, it was pretty crazy to like suddenly feel like your whole body changes. The acting just sort of slid into place," James said. "But also it's great to feel so challenged and to sort of lean into a transformation that feels extreme. That part was really fulfilling."

To commemorate the experience, Stan says he has wondered if he should get a tattoo for real.

"I have thought about it many, many times, but I feel like the pressure of it now is sort of like, what's that first tattoo going to be, you know? And I am old. (He's 39.) Am I going to get a massive tattoo on my back? Am I at the Ben Affleck stage yet?" (Affleck has a large tattoo on his back of a phoenix.)

James says there's a scene in "Pam & Tommy" where she gets tattooed by the famed tattoo artist, Mark Mahoney, who did tattoos for Anderson and Lee.

"I really want him to give me a tattoo," she said. "But I have no idea of what." □

Ruhle replaces Williams on MSNBC; 'Morning Joe' expanded



Stephanie Ruhle attends The Hollywood Reporter's annual Most Powerful People in Media cocktail reception in New York on April 11, 2019.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — MSNBC announced Thursday that business journalist Stephanie Ruhle will replace Brian Williams on the nightly newscast

"The 11th Hour," and that "Morning Joe" will expand to four hours.

Ruhle, who will continue as a senior business analyst across other NBC News programs, had been host of the 9 a.m. Eastern hour on the news network.

In a memo to staff, MSNBC President Rashida Jones said Ruhle will bring her "business acumen, hard-hitting interview style and original reporting" to the 11 p.m. Eastern hour. She's expected to keep the format Williams originated before

leaving the network in December, with a review of the day's news and a centerpiece panel of three experts.

"Morning Joe," with Joe Scarborough, Mika Brzezinski and Willie Geist as hosts and a rotating panel of guests, currently airs from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. Eastern. It will take over the hour Ruhle is vacating.

Jones said the expansion "will give us an opportunity to extend the reach of the program, which has become so well known for its signature perspective and analysis, as well as its newsmaking interviews." The changes are expected to go into effect in a few months; no start date was given. □

'It's a man's world': Male athletes leading way in NIL money

By ERICA HUNZINGER

AP Sports Writer

Male athletes are leading the way six months after the NCAA cleared the way for college athletes to earn money on their celebrity. They lead in total name, image and likeness compensation and have more NIL deals than women, according to third-party data from July 1 through Dec. 31 for some 125,000 athletes — about a quarter of the nearly 500,000 in the NCAA's three divisions. NIL opportunities are clearly uneven, among genders and Power Five schools.

The Washington State women's volleyball team, for example, has zero deals. Several of its international players are not eligible for them but coach Jen Greeny, whose teams have gone to the NCAA Tournament six straight seasons, said women's teams just don't seem to be a priority.

"I am not aware of anyone that has approached any of our players, and we are (the) most successful sport at Washington State," Greeny said. "So, it is a little bit disheartening."

Men's sports make more money — often enough to help fund other sports — and have a much larger presence on TV and in media, so it's natural that businesses look to those athletes for the best return on investment, sports management experts say.

"It's a man's world. We're just trying to find our place in it," said professor Ketra Armstrong, director of the University of Michigan's Center for Race and Ethnicity in Sport and a member of the Michigan Task Force on Women in Sport. She added: "For women to break into this, it has to be strategic. It has to be intentional. It almost has to be unusual."

There is no public clearinghouse that tracks NIL compensation and activity, so the true size of the fledgling industry is somewhat unknown. NIL tech platform INFLCR declined to give an exact figure, but said athletes using its system have reported deals totaling



Fresno State's Haley Cavinder, left, with Hanna Cavinder, right, celebrate during an NCAA college basketball game against Boise State on Jan. 23, 2021, in Fresno, Calif.

Associated Press

"eight figures."

Most schools have balked at releasing details provided by their athletes, citing privacy concerns, though Ohio State said this week that 220 athletes had been paid a total of \$2.98 million for 608 reported NIL activities since July 1.

INFLCR and Opendorse — another company that got into the industry early — have released some gender- and sport-specific details. The companies say they don't track deals by race or ethnicity.

Male athletes in Division I reported more NIL deals than female athletes — 59% of the total, according to data from July 1 through Dec. 31 from INFLCR. Its data is based on transactions that have been reported by athletes in the INFLCR system — more than 70,000 across 200-plus schools.

Opendorse, meanwhile, found that Division I male athletes grabbed 67.4% of total NIL compensation compared with 32.6% of women through Dec. 31, citing data for some 55,000 athletes across more than 575 schools.

The NIL era allows athletes to tap the free market under broad rules in place from the NCAA, states and schools. Title IX, the federal law that requires athletic departments to provide

general equivalence for men and women, does not apply because schools are not striking the deals.

"It's going to be up to whoever decides to pay the kid, sponsor the kid, endorse the kid, whatever it might be, that's their decision," said Matthew Robinson, a professor of sport management at Delaware.

That has so far favored male athletes, though INFLCR CEO Jim Cavale said "if you remove football from the equation, transactions or activities disclosed by female student-athletes make up more than 50% of the total for all other sports."

Five women's sports rank in the top 10 for NIL activities, based on INFLCR and Opendorse data: track and field, volleyball, basketball, soccer and softball. Opendorse said six women's sports are also in the top 10 for NIL compensation, led by women's basketball (26.2%), which is behind only football (45.7%) and ahead of men's basketball (18%). Those three sports make up about 90% of total NIL compensation. The vast majority of NIL deals are modest: Average compensation across all three divisions, per INFLCR, was \$1,291 overall through Dec. 31, with a median compensation of just \$51. Opendorse said the average compensation for a

Division I athlete was \$1,036 at the end of 2021.

Overall compensation figures are skewed by some reportedly massive deals for a small group of star athletes like UConn basketball player Paige Bueckers (Gatorade, StockX), Fresno State basketball's Cavinder twins, Haley and Hanna (Boost Mobile, Baseline Team clothing company), LSU gymnast Olivia Dunne (Vuori, American Eagle), UCLA soccer's Reilyn Turner (Nike), Kentucky basketball's TyTy Washington (Porsche dealership) and Alabama quarterback Bryce Young (Cash App, trading cards).

"You're going to have people making millions, and they're going to be the minority," Robinson said. "I think it's gonna be a lot of people making hundreds and thousands."

Florida's Trinity Thomas, the 2020 SEC gymnast of the year and a former member of the U.S. national team, has done several NIL deals has more in the pipeline. Most of them have been social media posts — and the number of followers matters.

"I've always been active on social media, but not as much as I am now," Thomas said. "I'm definitely trying to build a following now. I figure if I have the opportunity, it's something

I should take and work on. It's been fun, stressful and a learning curve."

Black female athletes like Thomas earning lucrative NIL deals are believed to be more the exception than the rule so far, sports marketing experts say.

Thilo Kunkel, an associate professor and director of the Sport Industry Research Center at Temple, said "white women have a more affluent target market or followers than some who come from a diverse background" and "some brands don't see as much value" in a woman of color's target market.

Plus, getting sponsors' attention as a female athlete isn't quite as simple as an eye-grabbing Instagram post or a run of NCAA tournaments. It helps to be at a big-time Power Five conference school, Kunkel said, because the "large brand community — those alumni, those followers — get much stronger."

Of course, even if you are in a Power Five conference like Washington State, there is no guarantee the money will come your way as a female athlete. The Cougars "don't have the donor base that a lot of other schools in the Pac-12 or in the Power Five do," Greeny said.

"(I'm concerned) that us as a female sport are going to lose out on donor money in general for the things we actually need, and those donors are going to be called upon for NIL deals," she said. "So instead of us as a whole department reaping the benefits of these donors, it's going to go to a few male athletes. And we just don't have that many donors to go around."□

Like us on
Facebook



facebook.com/arubatoday/

Roethlisberger retires at 39: Time to 'hang up my cleats'

By **WILL GRAVES**

AP Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH (AP) — No more comebacks for Ben Roethlisberger.

The longtime Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback announced his retirement on Thursday, saying it was "time to clean out my locker, hang up my cleats" after 18 seasons, two Super Bowls, countless team records and a spot in the Hall of Fame all but secure.

"I don't know how to put into words what the game of football has meant to me and what a blessing it has been," Roethlisberger, 39, said in a video message. "But I know with confidence I have given my all to the game; I am overwhelmed with gratitude for what it has given me."

The much-anticipated decision came less than two weeks after Pittsburgh's lopsided loss to Kansas City in the first round of the postseason, the 12th time in Roethlisberger's career the Steelers reached the playoffs.

He hinted before his final game at Heinz Field



Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger (7) runs onto the field before an NFL wild-card playoff football game against the Kansas City Chiefs, Sunday, Jan. 16, 2022, in Kansas City, Mo.

Associated Press

that it was time for him to move on and spend more time with his wife, Ashley, and their three children. He made it a point to embrace the moment following a Monday night win over the Browns on Jan. 3, doing a victory lap of sorts before disappearing down the tunnel surrounded by his family.

Roethlisberger called the journey from a kid growing up in Ohio to the 11th overall pick in the 2004 draft to a likely future Hall of Famer "exhilarating."

And wildly successful.

The Steelers never endured a losing season during Roethlisberger's tenure and captured Super Bowls 40 and 46 — the latter com-

ing on a now-iconic touchdown pass over the outstretched hands of three Arizona defenders to Antonio Holmes in the back corner of the end zone.

"Putting that jersey on every Sunday with my brothers will always be one of the greatest joys of my life," he said.

Roethlisberger's personal journey, unlike his professional one, was more complicated. He wasn't wearing a helmet when broke his jaw and his nose in a motorcycle crash in 2006 shortly after becoming the youngest quarterback ever to win a Super Bowl.

He was twice accused of sexual assault, once in 2009 and again in 2010. A civil case filed against him stemming from an incident at Lake Tahoe in 2009 was settled out of court. A woman in Georgia alleged he assaulted her at a bar in March 2010 but prosecutors did not formally charge him.

The NFL suspended him for the start of the 2010 season for violating the league's personal conduct policy. He returned to lead the Steelers to the Super Bowl, a loss to Green Bay.

The second half of his career hinted at his evolution both as a player and a person. Known more for his rugged "Ben being Ben" approach to the game during his 20s, he morphed

into one of the league's premier passers in his 30s. He twice led the league in yards passing and retires in the all-time top 10 in yards passing and touchdown passes and game-winning drives. Off the field, he got married in 2011 and started a family while largely retreating from public view. The only thing that didn't really change? Winning.

Roethlisberger posted a 165-81-1 record as a starter, the most in franchise history and fifth-most ever. The Steelers won the AFC North eight times with his familiar No. 7 behind center and the player known universally as "Big Ben" seemed to thrive when Pittsburgh was in a tight spot. His 53 game-winning drives are tied for second in NFL history behind Peyton Manning's 54.

Long regarded for his toughness and playing in considerable pain, Roethlisberger suffered only one major injury. He missed almost the entire 2019 season after tearing ligaments in his right elbow in Week 2 against Seattle.

He returned in 2020 and guided the Steelers to an 11-0 start and a division title, throwing for 3,803 yards and 33 touchdowns against just 10 interceptions. The season ended, however, with a four-interception performance in a home playoff loss to Cleveland.

While teammates and good friends Maurkice Pouncey and Vance McDonald retired, Roethlisberger returned for one last run behind an almost completely rebuilt offensive line. The Steelers sputtered for long stretches, with Roethlisberger very much looking his age at times.

Yet there were still flashes of the Ben of old, not Old Ben, perhaps most notably in a 20-19 win over Baltimore in early December in which he threw a pair of fourth-quarter touchdown passes to edge the rival Ravens. Despite the offense's limitations, the Steelers managed to scrap their way to a playoff berth despite an underwhelming 9-7-1 season. □



**SUNSET
CONCIERGE**

*Let us customize
your sunset experience.*

For reservations or more information, visit our
Sunset Concierge desk located in the Aruba Tower Lobby
or email us at sunsetconciierge@hilton.com.

24-hour advance reservations required.





HILTONARUBA.COM

J.E. Irausquin Blvd. 81, Palm Beach, Aruba
800 250 0134 | +297 586 6555

